



## Whatcom social media post update

09/20/2019

### *A Message from Superintendent Greg Baker*

Many of you have inquired re: a recent post on social media which has made some news reports. While we are limited in what we can share due to privacy laws regarding individual students, I think it is important to share as much as possible to ensure transparency and trust.

Since learning of this situation yesterday, we have been fact-finding in order to ensure we understand what occurred; that work continues. My assessment at this point is as follows:

- We are all probably aware that state funding for schools is limited, particularly with regards to construction, and thus schools often have limited space to meet students' instructional and social-emotional needs. We are always looking for creative ways to best use our facilities to meet students' needs. For example, throughout the years in order to provide full-time kindergarten we have sometimes converted staff lounges into temporary classrooms and principals' offices into meeting spaces.
- This current situation is an example of staff trying to seek a solution to temporarily repurpose a room. To our knowledge, the room had been used as storage, not as an active restroom.
- It didn't turn out to be an idea that was used; no students spent time in the repurposed space as part of their school day.

Again, my preliminary assessment is this idea was well-intentioned, but in the end we did not move forward with it.

Our staff are incredibly skilled, compassionate and dedicated. They give of themselves every day to make our community better by serving all children, no matter what their individual needs are. Like all of us, including myself, our staff are not perfect. Together we show who we are in situations like this: we take responsibility, we learn and we commit to doing better.

Thank you,

Greg Baker

